



E-Newsletter www.house.gov/simpson July 9, 2003

Message from Mike

I am returning to Washington, D.C. after spending the Independence Work Period in Idaho. During that time I met with constituents in Blackfoot, Boise and Pocatello. Among the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to clear branches in the Boise National Forest as part of the Firewise program. To learn more about Firewise, check out page 4 of this newsletter or go to my website. I was also privileged to attend a flag raising ceremony at the Willow Park Assisted Living Center in Boise and commemorate 30 years of the all volunteer military with members of our armed forces. This week Congress will continue work on the appropriations bills before recessing the month of August.

RIGHT — Congressman Simpson speaks at a press conference highlighting the Castle Mountain Subdivision's commitment to being Firewise. The Castle Mountain Subdivision is located in Crouch, Idaho on the edge of the Boise National Forest.



What's Up this Week

For the week of July 8 to July 11, 2003

Wednesday/Thursday

The House is scheduled to vote on two education related bills. **H.R. 2211, "Ready to Teach Act of 2003" and H.R. 438 "Teacher Recruitment and Retention Act."** H.R. 2211 amends Title II of the Higher Education Act, strengthening and improving teacher training programs to ensure they are providing prospective teachers with the high quality training needed to enter the classroom ready to teach. H.R. 438 would expand current teacher loan forgiveness available in the Higher Education Act (HEA) to address critical shortage areas in math, science and special education.

Washington, DC,
1339 Longworth
Washington, D.C.
20515
Phone: 202-225-5531
Fax: 202-225-8216

Boise Office
802 West Bannock,
Suite 600
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208-334-1953
Fax: 208-334-9533

Idaho Falls Office
490 Memorial Drive,
Suite 103
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-523-6701
Fax: 208-523-2384

Twin Falls Office
1201 Falls Ave. E.
Suite 25
Twin Falls, ID 83301
Phone: 208-734-7219
Fax: 208-734-7244

Pocatello Office
801 E. Sherman, Suite
194
Pocatello, ID 83201
Phone: 208-478-4160
Fax: 208-478-4162

Weekly Website

Coloring pages for the kids! Check out the White House kids' webpage for a coloring page of each president.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidentsday/color/index.html>

Federal Facts

It's been nine years since a new Supreme Court Justice was appointed. This is the longest time in history for one court to be intact without any new appointments.

Idaho History Quiz

What is the highest mountain in Idaho and what famous public servant is it named after?

Answer this question correctly and you'll be featured in next week's e-newsletter!

Congratulations to Rep. Elaine Smith of District 30 in Pocatello, who correctly answered that Rigby, Idaho is the birthplace of television.

Quote of the Week

"We are continually faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."

— John W. Gardner

Freedom is Not Free

by Congressman Simpson

Every year thousands of people from across the world visit Washington, D.C. and tour our monuments to liberty. Visitors see the spire of the Washington Monument, the sacred names engraved on the Vietnam Memorial, the solemn face of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial, and the statesman stance of Thomas Jefferson. But tucked between the Reflecting Pool and the Potomac River is a monument to a forgotten war that doesn't always receive as much attention.

The monument features 19 steel sculpted soldiers trudging towards the flag. They are tired and weary with deep circles forming their eyes. They are cold, wearing ponchos to protect against Korea's harsh weather. They wear heavy backpacks with ammunition, supplies, food and pen and paper for that last letter. Their heads are turned constantly looking for snipers around them. Each carries a rifle; ready for the moment they'll need to defend themselves. And on the granite wall facing them are the words: Freedom is not Free.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, the conflict that is symbolized in the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. At the end of July, Korean War veterans will converge on the U.S. Capitol to pay their respects to those who didn't make it home. There will be a Korean Cultural Dance, a solemn wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and an Armistice Day signing ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Monument.

This summer the world and the nation will pay tribute to this forgotten war, where more than 54,000 American soldiers died and over 103,000 more were wounded. During the war, more than 7,000 men were taken prisoner and 8,100 soldiers are still missing today. More than 1.5 million Americans participated in the Korean War, including my dad who served in the medical corps.

The Korean War is often called the Forgotten War because it was compressed between World War II and the controversial Vietnam War. But the sacrifices of Korean War veterans and all other veterans should not be forgotten. Americans fight oppression and tyranny in whatever form. From the tough terrain of Korea, to the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, the service and sacrifice of our military continues. Our nation has paid a heavy price for our freedom. More than 1.2 million Americans have died in combat since the Revolutionary War and that number continues to grow as our soldiers continue to fight in the Middle East.

I hope each of us can take a moment to honor the sacrifices of those who leave their homes to defend freedom abroad. From the minutemen who dropped their pitchforks and picked up a rifle in the Revolutionary War, to the soldiers who served in Korea fighting the threat of Communism, to the guardsmen and women who left their work and families to free the people of Iraq, we owe many a debt of gratitude for their sacrifices.

Simpson Holds Office Hours in Burley, Rupert

A field representative for Congressman Mike Simpson will hold office hours in Burley and Rupert on July 10.

Simpson field representative Linda Culver will visit with constituents on Thursday, July 10 at the Burley City Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., the Minidoka County Senior Center from 12 to 1 p.m. and the Rupert City Hall from 2 to 3 p.m.

Simpson field representatives travel to towns throughout the Second Congressional District as part of the traveling district office program. Constituents with specific problems or questions about Social Security, Veterans Affairs or the Internal Revenue Service are encouraged to attend.

The traveling district office is part of Rep. Simpson's effort to meet the needs of citizens throughout the Second Congressional District, who may not live close to one of the four field offices in Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Twin Falls.

Simpson Announces Funding Release for City of Rocks, Snake River Crossing

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, is pleased to announce \$2.4 million in FY 2003 funding has been released to the Idaho Department of Transportation.

The FY2003 Omnibus Appropriations bill, passed in February, authorizes \$1.49 million for the Snake River Crossing project in Twin Falls and \$909,627 for the City of Rocks Back Country Byway. The Snake River Crossing funds will be used to study the possibility of a second bridge across the river near the city of Twin Falls. The appropriation is seed money to continue examining the issue and pinpoint a potential location.

Funds for the City of Rocks Back Country Byway will be used to widen and repave 16.7 miles of the only paved road leading from the City of Rocks National Reserve and the Sawtooth National Forest. This money will go to fund the second stage of construction from Connor's Corner to the entrance of the national reserve in Cassia County. It will dramatically improve the deteriorated road; widen it from 20 to 24 feet and straighten many of the sharp corners. The project has already received \$600,000 in 1999; \$440,000 in 2001; \$2 million in 2002; and \$1 million in 2003 from Public Lands Highway Discretionary funds. Minor work on Phase 1 of the project will begin this fall and major construction will begin again in the spring 2004.

Be Firewise

Congressman Simpson has teamed up with the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and the National Interagency Fire Center to produce public service announcements encouraging homeowners to take responsibility and become firewise. This involves creating a clean, green, defensible space around your home. Here's a top 10 list of firewise tips. To learn more about firewise go to <http://www.firewise.org>.



Congressmen Simpson and Otter feed brush and small branches into a “chipper” to reduce fuel loads around homes in the Castle Mountain Subdivision in Crouch, Idaho.

1. Create a safety zone or fire break around your home.

2. Reduce the amount of fuel immediately surrounding your home. The safety goal of landscaping and maintenance is very simple. Reduce the amount of fuel immediately surrounding your home.

However, this does not mean your landscape has to be barren. Some plants are more fire resistive than others. One of the most important things any wildland homeowner can do is to create a safety zone or fire break around the house using these fire resistive plants.

3. Your safety zone can consist of numerous varieties of plants, including grasses, border plantings, flowers and vegetables. Check with your local fire officials about the best species for your area.

4. In most areas, a safety zone should be cleared away from your home for a distance of not less than 30 feet. As the slope of the lot increases, additional clearance as far out as 100 feet may be necessary.

5. Clearance also depends on vegetative conditions that provide ladder fuels that enable fire to climb into trees. Trees and shrubs are fine, as long as dead or low-hanging branches are removed and the height of ground vegetation is controlled.

6. Be sure to remove all tree limbs around your chimney, as well as any dead branches that may hang over the roof. Accumulated leaves, needles, and other dead vegetation should also be removed.

7. Beyond 100 feet from the house, dead wood and older trees should be removed or thinned. Consult with your local fire officials for specific guidelines appropriate for your location. Keep an eye on any limbs that may come in contact with power lines.

8. Sweep your gutters, eaves and roof regularly.

9. Stack firewood well away from your home or outbuildings.

10. Avoid using outdoor incinerators for household trash.

Homeland Security

In an effort to prepare all Americans, the Department of Homeland Security has created <http://www.ready.gov>. To join in this effort, Congressman Simpson's e-newsletter will feature weekly topics designed to keep Americans safe. Today's e-newsletter is part of a four step plan to prepare for the unknown. Topics include: food and water, clean air, first aid and supply checklists. Last week's topic was storing food and water. Today's topic is putting together a first aid kit. Next week's topic is the subject of clean air.



In any emergency a family member or you yourself may be cut, burned or suffer other injuries. If you have these basic supplies you are better prepared to help your loved ones when they are hurt. Remember, many injuries are not life threatening and do not require immediate medical attention. Knowing how to treat minor injuries can make a difference in an emergency. Consider taking a first aid class, but simply having the following things can help you stop bleeding, prevent infection and assist in decontamination.

Things you should have:

- Two pairs of Latex, or other **sterile gloves** (if you are allergic to Latex).
- **Sterile dressings** to stop bleeding.
- **Cleansing agent**/soap and antibiotic towelettes to disinfect.
- **Antibiotic ointment** to prevent infection.
- **Burn ointment** to prevent infection.
- **Adhesive bandages** in a variety of sizes.
- **Eye wash solution** to flush the eyes or as general decontaminant.
- **Thermometer**
- **Prescription medications** you take every day such as insulin, heart medicine and asthma inhalers. You should periodically rotate medicines to account for expiration dates.
- **Prescribed medical supplies** such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies.

Things it may be good to have:

- Cell phone
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant

Non-prescription drugs:

- Potassium Iodide
- Aspirin or nonaspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for upset stomach)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Laxative
- Activated charcoal (use if advised by the Poison Control Center)